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A rhyme of children, which appears to be an incantation, is mentioned by Thistleton Dyer in his "Folk-Lore of Plants :—" "In Cheshire, when children first see the heads of the Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) in spring, they repeat the following rhyme : —

Chimney sweeper all in black,
Go to the wood and wash your back,
Wash it clean, or wash it none,
Chimney sweeper, have you done ?

— being in all probability a mode of divination for insuring good luck." —
Charles G. Leland.

A SWEDISH RHYME FOR COUNTING-OUT. — I can well remember the following counting-out rhyme, used by the children in Sweden some years ago, and, I suppose, still current. The vowel *a* has the broad pronunciation, as in father : —

Apála, mezála,
Mezínke, Mezó,
Zebedéy, Zebedó,
Extra, Lára,
Caisa, Sahra,
Häck, Väck,
Wällinge säck,
Gack, Du, din, Långe man's väg ut.

There seem to be three distinct divisions in the above rhyme. The first, beginning with "Apála" and ending with "Zebedó," is entirely foreign to the Swedish tongue, and reminds one, I think, of the Romany. The second division, beginning with "Extra," is a mixture of Latin and biblical names. The meaning of "Lára" is unknown to me. "Caisa" is vulgar Swedish for Catherine, generally spelled *Cajsa*. "Sahra" is a Jewish name, common everywhere. The third division, beginning with "Häck," is Germanic and Swedish. "Häck," as it is spelled here, means a hedge, but very likely it originally meant something else. "Väck," probably meaning "away," is both Germanic and Swedish. The last verse is good Swedish as far as the words go, but has no good sense. Literally translated, it would signify, —

Go, thou, thine, long man's way out.

The second verse from the end is also Swedish, but means nothing rational. Literally translated, it would be "Porridge sack." In the last three lines it may be observed that *ä* is pronounced a broad *ai*, as in pair. Again, *ä* has the sound of a broad *aw*, if pronounced between the lips. The most interesting part of the rhyme is the first three lines, derived, no doubt, from some outlandish "spells." — *Gustav A. Eisen, Delano, Cal.*

THE BLACK SPIDER, A CHILD'S GAME. — The children in this neighborhood have a game they call "The Black Spider," that is new to me. I give it on the chance of its being unprinted. I believe that the playing of games has revived among the children about us, and am glad to think so.

The children choose a Mother, a Nurse, and a Black Spider, the rest are